

**REMARKS**

In an Official Action dated October 3, 2006 , the Examiner rejected the pending claims as anticipated or obvious over a number of references. In a Response filed April 3, 2007 Applicants amended the claims and responded to the Official Action dated October 3, 2007. In a Notice dated September 21, 2007 the Examiner contends that the April 3, 2007 response was not compliant because it did not respond to all of the issues raised in the October 3, 2006 Official Action. In this response, Applicants have re-presented the claim amendments included in the April 3, 2007 response, and request that the Examiner reconsider the notice of non-compliance and the rejections in the previous Official Action.

As previously discussed with the Examiner, Muellenberg 5,067,847 discloses a device that operates differently than the device disclosed in the application. Although Applicant believes that the claims as previously presented distinguish Applicant's device from the devices in the cited references, the claims have been further amended to further recite some of the distinguishing features.

For instance, as discussed with the Examiner, the device in Mullenberg does not operate such that turning the nut in a first direction causes the minor diameter of the outer sleeve to be displaced toward the major diameter of the inner sleeve to tighten the device and such that turning the nut in a second direction causes the minor diameter of the outer sleeve to be displaced away from the major diameter of the inner sleeve to loosen the device. Such features are recited in claims 1 and 9 and since Mullenberg does not teach or suggest such features, claims 1 and 9 are patentable over Mullenberg.

Further, claim 1 recites that the nut has a threaded portion and a first connector wherein the first connector has a forward surface and a rearward surface spaced apart from the threaded position. The first connector cooperates with a second

connector on the outer sleeve to tighten and loosen the device. There is no teaching or suggestion of such features in Muellenberg.

Accordingly, in light of the amendments to the claims, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claims 1 and 9 as anticipated by or obvious in light of Muellenberg.

Further, claim 24 has been amended to further recite the differences between Applicant's device and the device in Soussloff 4,600,334. For instance, Soussloff incorporates a device having an outer sleeve, and intermediate sleeve and an internal sleeve. Claim 24 has been amended to recite that the outer sleeve engages the machine element and the outer sleeve directly engages the inner sleeve. Claim 24 further recites that rotating the nut in a first direction causes the nut to displace the outer sleeve rearwardly relative to the machine element to tighten the device, and rotating the nut in a second direction causes the nut to displace the outer sleeve forwardly relative to the machine element to loosen the device. In contrast, the device in Soussloff does not have a nut that engages the outer sleeve; rather the nut engages the intermediate sleeve, which does not engage the machine element.

With respect to claim 27, the Examiner appears to indicate that the first connector must include both the flange and the groove. However, nothing in the specification or drawings requires such a conclusion. In fact, claim 3 as originally filed specifically states: "The device of claim 2 wherein the first connector comprises a circumferential groove and the second connector comprises a flange extending radially inwardly . . ." Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claim 27 under §112.


In light of the foregoing, Applicant believes that this application is in form for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned

attorney if the Examiner believes that issues remain regarding the allowability of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen H. Eland", written over a horizontal line.

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